

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

6:00 p.m. – Parent/Community Chat

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr.

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

In attendance for the Parent/Community Chat were Principals Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Michael Mancieri, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte, and Grade Leader Deb O'Bryan.

Mrs. Savastano presented an overview of the NECAP program. The State results for NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) are for teaching year 2009-2010. The test was taken in October 2010 on the previous year's data. Grades 3-8 and grade 11 were assessed in reading and math. Writing is administered to grades 5, 8 and 11. "Teaching Year" are students we actually taught. Results come back in a 1 (Substantially Below Proficiency), 2 (Partially Proficient), 3 (Proficient), 4 (Proficient with Distinction) grading system.

Mr. Ruscito discussed the test scores at Middletown High School. In Grade 11 in 2010, 56 percent of students were proficient in math. In reading 83% were proficient and 67% in writing. Challenges at MHS are to improve male student reading scores and improve IEP student math scores. In order to improve, there is a commitment to a co-teaching structure, double period Algebra I and Geometry and intervention blocks. An "Introduction to Sports Literature" course has been created to encourage male readers.

Mrs. O'Bryan, Grade Leader, discussed the Professional Development at Gaudet Middle School. PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) have been instituted with the focus on student achievement.

Mr. Mancieri talked about student learning supports. RTI (Response to Intervention) is emerging. A number of supports and interventions have been developed – Flex/Ramp-up time, ZAP (Zeroes Are not Permitted), and TIP (Targeted Intervention Program). There are partnerships with YMCA, Women’s Resource Center, and the Boys’ and Girls’ Club.

Mrs. Fonseca reported that 70% of students at Aquidneck School are proficient in reading. Challenges include only one literacy coach to service the building and no math coach. Class sizes are bigger than ever. The afterschool intervention programs, which take place two days per week for an hour, have been a big success.

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Mr. Ponte said that scores have been steady over the last few years. Mobility is a big factor. There is a need to make transient students understand and feel secure taking the NECAP test. To improve we need to be consistent with math vocabulary. Parents can help by reading to their child everyday.

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Vice-Chair Theresa Spengler. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Michael Mancieri, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To move Proclamations and Awards up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Student Awards were given out in the following categories:

oTeacher of the Year

oRetirees

oStudent Awards

oNational Volunteer Week

oMonth of the Military Child

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•Hometown Sports Heroes – The Hometown Sports Heroes is a unified co-ed basketball team of students with and without disabilities.

•Safety Town – Middletown High School students Beth Larcom and Covell Anthony will be overseeing the program, which is in its 8th year. Beth will be coordinating the volunteers. Covell Anthony said the program will discuss fire safety, stranger danger, crime prevention, bus safety, and water pet safety. Mrs. Spengler suggested having Boy Scouts volunteer for their community service badge.

A short recess was taken.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Elementary Afterschool Intervention”

Mr. Ponte discussed Forest Avenue School’s “Focus of Instruction”. Forty-eight students were invited to attend the first session. Eight-six percent of the students taking part in the intervention program showed improvement. Mrs. Fonseca said the “Focus of Instruction” was also literacy. Students were invited to the program if they were reading below expectations. Seventy students were invited to the first session. In the first session, 50 students were tested and 46 showed growth. Thirty-five made or exceeded the mid-point target. The majority of students are 2nd and 3rd graders. The district has supported this program by

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providing transportation. The transportation and staffing was funded through a grant. Ocean State Transit has been running 2 busses, but is only charging for one.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger listed items of information:

- A communication plan for schools will make sure parents are on the listserv and ConnectEd. Mrs. Kraeger commended Gaudet Administration and the Middletown Police Department for their work during the lockdown.**
- There will be an early release for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors on June 1, 2011. Student will participate in community service.**
- An endorsement from NAFIS.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for April 14, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2011 Budget Workshop**
- Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2011 Budget Workshop**
- Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 15, 2011, in the amount of \$400,215.33
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 17, 2011, in the amount of \$23,809.38
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 30, 2011, in the amount of \$249,371.39

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Timothy Carr Custodial Supervisor, Facilities Management Dept

TRANSFER

**Robert Marshall From Aquidneck School, Night Custodian to
Day Lead Custodian, Middletown High School**

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FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Jeffrey Pine Facilities Management Department

From April 13, 2011 to May 2, 2011

Gregory Decoteaux Physics Teacher, Middletown High School

From September 6, 2011 until approximately November 9, 2011

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Kevin Ethier JV Baseball

Brian Crea Freshman Baseball

Stephen Ponte 6, 7,8th Grade Middle School Baseball

Anthony Bettencourt 6, 7, 8th Grade Middle School Softball

Christine Elliot Assistant Varsity Softball

Jesse Alvanas JV Softball

Kristen Seyster Head Varsity Boys Outdoor Track

Ben Blanchard Assistant Varsity Boys Outdoor Track

Ted Hersey Head Varsity Girls Outdoor Track

Richard Formica Head Varsity Boys Lacrosse

Megan Lawler Head Varsity Girls Lacrosse

ACTION ITEMS

ACCOUNT MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION 2nd Reading and Approval

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Account Manager Job Description, 2nd Reading.

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve “unifund BudgetSense Financial System”.

This will replace New World and will bridge to the Town.

BINDING ARBITRATION

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the resolution of the Smithfield Public Schools regarding Binding Arbitration.

OLD BUSINESS

•UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS – Data is available on the RIDE website. The same data will be published for each district in the State. Regional school districts are grouped with suburban districts.

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NEW BUSINESS

•TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER CHANGES – School Committee Members spoke at a recent Town Council Meeting about changes to the Town Charter. It was the School Committee's opinion that giving the Town Council the ability to create, change, or abolish Town departments has the potential to cause more problems than good. The items

would go on the November 2012 ballot. School Committee Members feel that the Town Council and the Town Administrator should not be the only people involved in making these decisions. A Charter Review Commission should be created. The Charter should not be changed lightly.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that work on the ELA curriculum continues. The curriculum will be aligned to the common core standards, as well as the GLE's. ELA and science will be completed in about six weeks. Next year, health, physical education, and world language will be addressed. The math curriculum will be updated with the common core standard. The social studies curriculum will be worked on in 2013 because new standards will be released next year so there is reason to begin curriculum work now.

- Financial – Major amendments were approved recently with fiscal stabilization funds. Last year, Middletown was given an option to replace stimulus funds. This is a one time revenue expense to add computers to the labs for testing (online assessment). Ms. Pellerin accompanied Mrs. Kraeger to the Impact Aid Conference in Washington. The "Local Taxpayer Relief Act" was advocated for, where prior year payments are expedited. Mrs. Kraeger said they met with Senators Reed and Whitehouse, Congressman Cicilline and a staffer of Congressman Langevin. Mrs. Kraeger asked the School

Committee if we should have a Budget Subcommittee Meeting. Mrs. Fenton would like to get the Budget Subcommittee together to see if there is anything else to look at. Ms. Pellerin is working with Lynne Dible to make sure the Town forecast and the school forecast is the same.

•Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that there were 151 work orders last month. During April and May, over 500 events took place in the schools each month. The School Department will possibly receive CIP funds. There has been discussion with Fielding Nair regarding work on the lower level at Aquidneck School. Phase One has been approved. A Building Committee now needs to be formed, with its first meeting in early May.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O’Connell. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

•Mr. O’Connell attended the NSBA Conference in San Francisco from April 8th – 11th and reported on the workshops he attended.

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***Mrs. Fenton reported that Part 2 of the regionalization report will be released in three weeks. At the first budget meeting on Monday, some Town Council members discussed town/school collaboration in regards to painting, maintenance, and other areas.**

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the School Committee Meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:13p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk